

Amendment dated March 23, 2006

Reply to Office Action of November 25, 2005

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-21 and 23-27 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 11 and 21 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 13 and 22, respectively, and claims 13 and 22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings.

Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 11-13 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,547,575 to Kato et al. (hereinafter “Kato ‘575”). Claims 13 and 22 are cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to claims 1, 11, 12, 21 and 23, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a connection mechanism for a foldable type handset. Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a first connector installed on a first body, and a second connector installed on a second body, wherein the first connector is configured to rotate relative

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to the second connector as the first body is rotated relative to the second body, while the first and second FPCBs connected respectively thereto are configured to remain in substantially fixed positions within the first and second bodies. Independent claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, wherein the coupler comprises a first connector configured to connect to one end of the first FPCB, and a second connector rotatably coupled to the first connector, and wherein the first and second FPCBs remain in substantially fixed positions within the first and second bodies as the first and second bodies, and the first and second connectors, are rotated relative to one another, respectively. Independent claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, wherein the coupler includes a first connector, and a second connector rotatably coupled to the first connector. Kato '575 neither discloses nor suggests at least such features, nor the claimed combination of features.

Kato '575 discloses a hinge connector which couples an LCD 25 and a body 19 of a notebook PC 73. Hollow cylindrical housings formed on the LCD 25 by coupling semicircular hinge portions 29, 31, 33 and 35 fit into spaces formed between hollow cylindrical portions 41, 43 and 45 formed on a hinge unit 27 provided on the body 19. A first hinge connector 75 is housed within the space formed by the hinge portions 29, 31. A second hinge connector 77 electrically connected to the body 19 is provided in the space between the hollow cylindrical portions 41 and 43 on the hinge unit 27. The first and second hinge connectors 75, 77 are coupled by sliding the second hinge connector 77 into the first hinge connector 75, and then the LCD 25 and body 19 are coupled by inserting a shaft 49 projecting from an end of the first

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connector 75 into the hollow cylindrical portion 41, and inserting a shaft 51 extending from the hinge portion 35 into the hollow cylindrical portion 45.

When the first and second hinge connectors 75, 77 are slidably engaged in their longitudinal direction, mutually engageable recesses and projections formed in a longitudinal direction thereof are combined (see column 5, lines 60-67 and column 6, lines 1-25 of Kato '575). Thus, once the first and second connectors 75, 77 are engaged, they cannot rotate about their central longitudinal axis relative to one another, as this type of motion is clearly limited by the longitudinal disposition of the recesses and projections. Rather, only the shafts 49, 51 are able to rotate within the hoolow cylindrical portions 41, 45, while the first and second connectors 75, 77 must remain fixed relative to one another.

The Kato '575 mechanism is specifically designed for a notebook PC 73, and not for a foldable type handset, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, the first and second hinge connectors 75, 77 must, by design, remain fixed, and not rotate, relative to one another to maintain their electrical connection and keep the FPCs joined thereto from flexing or bending. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that any rotation of the first and second hinge connectors 75, 77 relative to one another would inherently cause flexing and bending in the attached FPCs, thus destroying the functionality of the Kato '575 as originally intended. Thus, it is further submitted that Kato '575 actually teaches away from any type of rotation of the first and second hinge connectors 75, 77 relative to one another.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Kato '575 neither discloses nor suggests a connection mechanism configured to electrically connect two bodies of a foldable type handset, as recited in independent claim 1, let alone that such a mechanism includes a first connector installed on a first body and a second connector installed on a second body, wherein the first and second connectors rotate relative to one another as the first and second bodies rotate relative to one another, let alone that such rotation allows FPCBs respectively connected thereto to remain in substantially fixed positions, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11, nor a second coupler rotatably coupled to a first coupler, as recited in independent claim 21.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are not anticipated by Kato '575, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1, 11 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kato '575 should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 12 and 23 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 11 and 21, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-10, 14-20 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kato '575. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 3-10, 14-20 and 24-27 are allowable over Kato '575 at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 11 and 21, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. It is further submitted that, as set forth above, it would not have been obvious to modify the device disclosed by Kato '575 in the

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manner suggested in the Office Action in developing a connection mechanism as recited.

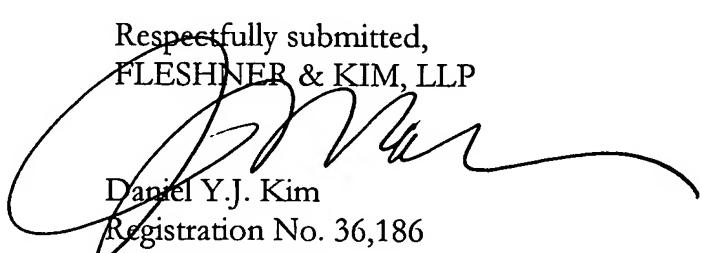
Accordingly, the rejection of claims 3-10, 14-20 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kato '575 should be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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